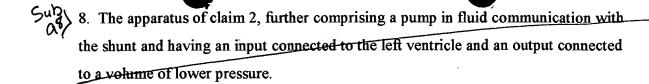
- 1. Apparatus for decreasing pressure in a first portion of a vessel of the cardiac structure of a patient comprising a shunt communicating with an area outside said first portion, whereby a volume of blood sufficient to reduce pressure in said first portion is released.
 - 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first portion comprises the left ventricle and said pressure is the end diastolic pressure in a patient heart, wherein said shunt communicates with the left ventricle, whereby a small volume of blood is released from the left ventricle to reduce the end diastolic pressure.
- 3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the shunt comprises a passive check-valve that allows flow when a pressure differential between the left ventricle and another chamber of a heart above a threshold pressure, whereby shunting is prevented during left ventricular systole
 - 4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the shunt comprises a passive check-valve that allows flow when a pressure differential between the left ventricle and another chamber of a heart is between a lower threshold and a higher threshold, whereby shunting is prevented during left ventricular systole

5. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the shunt comprises a semi-passive check-valve comprising a valve activated by an external signal.

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- 6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein an intra-corporeal electrical battery generates said signal.
- 7. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein signal is generated by an externally coupled energy source.



- 5.6 C 79. The apparatus of claim 2, comprising a tubular element having two ends and a tissue affixation element disposed at each of said ends.
 - 10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said tubular element is comprised of a biologically inert non-metallic material.
 - Structure of a patient comprising the step of implanting a shunt communicating with an area outside said first portion, whereby a volume of blood sufficient to reduce pressure in said first portion is released.
 - 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the first portion comprises the left ventricle and said pressure is the end diastolic pressure in a patient heart, wherein said shunt communicates with the left ventricle, whereby a small volume of blood is released from the left ventricle to reduce the end diastolic pressure.
 - 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of selectively permitting flow when a pressure differential between the left ventricle and another chamber of a heart above a threshold pressure, whereby shunting is prevented during left ventricular systole
 - 14. The method of claim 1/2, further comprising the step of selectively permitting flow when a pressure differential between the left ventricle and another chamber of a heart is between a lower threshold and a higher threshold, whereby shunting is prevented during left ventricular systole
 - 503)15. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of actuating a semi-passive check-valve by an external signal.

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- 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of generating said signal with an intra-corporeal electrical battery.
- 17. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of generating said signal with an externally coupled energy source.
- 540/18. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of activating a pump in fluid communication with the shunt and having an input connected to the left ventricle and an output connected to a volume of lower pressure.
 - 19. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of implanting said shunt, said implanting step comprising the step of deploying a tubular element having two ends and a tissue affixation element disposed at each of said ends via a catheter.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said tissue fixation element is a shape retaining metallic material and further comprising the step of releasing the tissue fixation elements.